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17 August 2020

Typical late winter weather as we move into Lock Down Level 2

A cold front, typical of late winter, made landfall earlier this afternoon, 17 August 2020. Showers (heavy in places over the south-western parts) are expected over the Western Cape, spreading to the western parts of the Eastern Cape later. Some disruptive snowfalls can also be expected over the Western Cape tonight, but mainly over the higher mountains of the region, including Sutherland (Northern Cape) and Beaufort West (Western Cape).

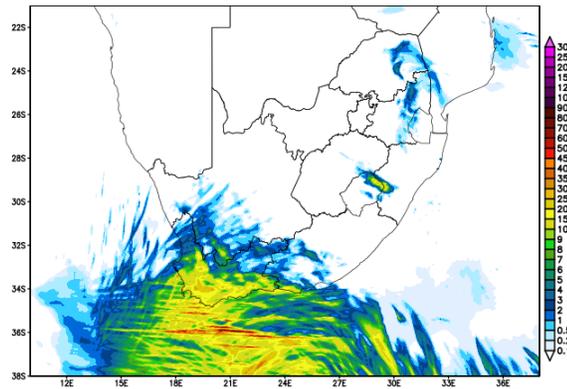


Fig. 1: Expected Rainfall today (17 August 2020)

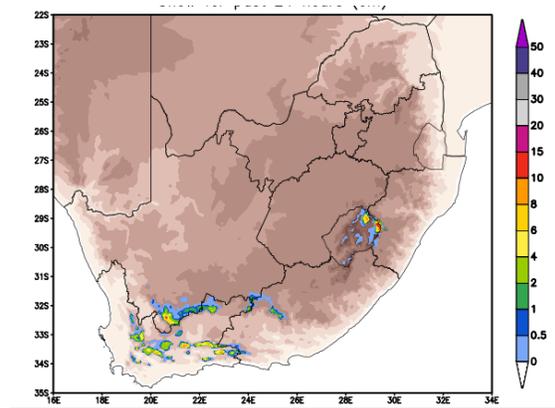


Fig. 2: Expected snowfall today (17 August 2020)

By tomorrow, Tuesday 18 August 2020, the cold front is expected to have advanced to the Eastern Cape province, when snowfalls (disruptive in places) can be expected at localities such as Graaff Reinet, Cradock and Queenstown. In particular, some rainfall along the southern Cape coast and adjacent interior could be heavy, leading to localised flooding. Localities such as George, Plettenberg Bay and Jeffrey's Bay are likely areas, regarding the risk of heavy rainfall.

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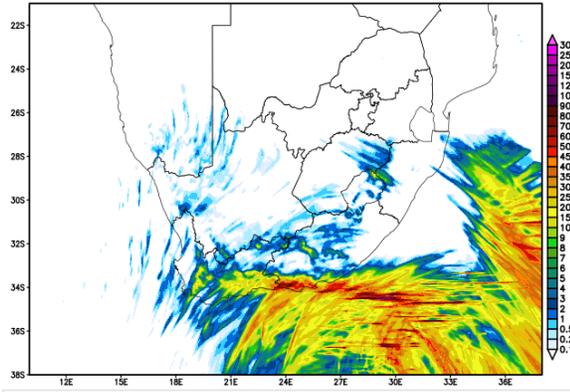


Fig. 3: Expected rainfall tomorrow (18 August 2020)

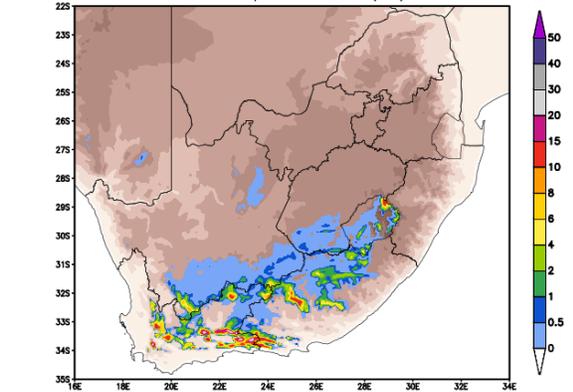


Fig. 4: Expected snowfall (18 August 2020)

Isolated showers or thundershowers are expected to deliver light rainfall to the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and the southern highveld tomorrow, Tuesday, 18 August 2020. Gauteng, as well as the eastern highveld of Mpumalanga can therefore expect a few rumbles of thunder, albeit short-lived and of a non-severe nature, in the afternoon and evening hours.

There will also be a localised risk of runaway fires (dangerously high FDI rating in the red category) over the north-east Free State as well as the Drakensberg highlands of KZN tomorrow, ahead of the advancing cold front. This is a typical phenomenon to be expected at this time of year, when there is an abundance of fuel in the form of dry grasslands.

Tomorrow, Tuesday 18 August 2020, will also see marine conditions over the open ocean being fairly unsettled, with very rough seas as well as gale-force westerly to south-westerly winds along an extensive section of the southern coastline, between Cape Point and Port St Johns. Coastal regions however are not expected to be significantly impacted.

By Wednesday, 19 August 2020, the weather system will have mostly moved off, well to the east of the country, with only some light residual showers lingering along parts of the Eastern Cape coast. Winds countrywide will also have lessened significantly, although fresh to strong south-westerly to southerly winds may still occur at places along the south-eastern and eastern coast. The southern half of the country will, however, remain distinctly cold on this day, although daytime temperatures are expected to recover gradually thereafter.

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) will continue to monitor any further developments relating to this weather system and will issue subsequent updates as required timely. Furthermore, the public are urged and encouraged to regularly follow the weather forecasts on television and radio issued by SAWS. Updated information in this regard will regularly be available at www.weathersa.co.za as well as via the SA Weather Service Twitter account @SAWeatherServic and on the Weather Smart App.

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